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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,787	02/09/2006	Egon Herr	1004501-000835	4541

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EXAMINER

TA, THO DAC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

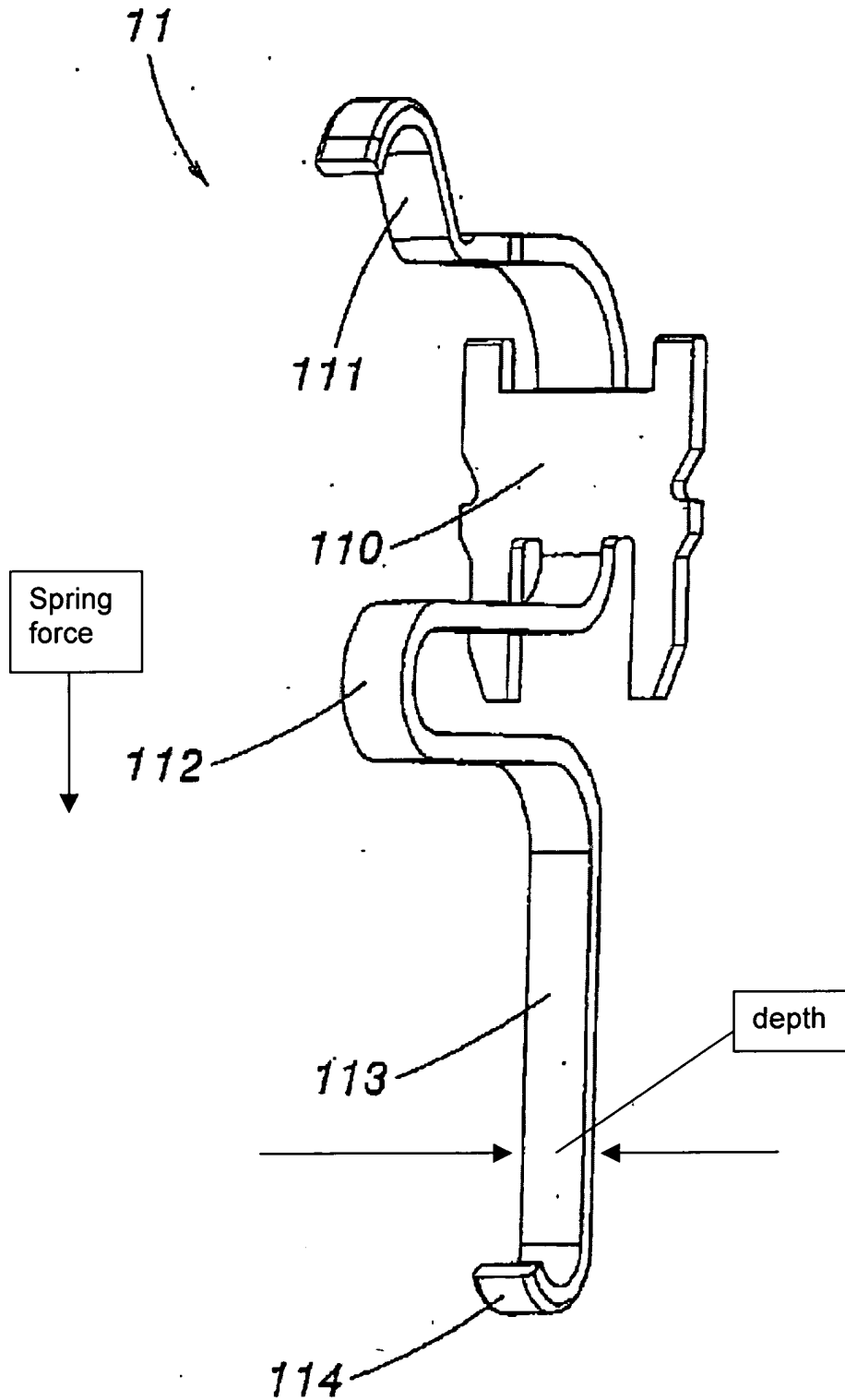
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 11-13, 15, 20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yin et al. (US 2004/0102063 A1).

In regard to claims 11, 13, 20, Yin et al. discloses an electrical pressure contact spring 11 of electrically conductive wire, with a first contacting region 114 for contacting a first electrically conductive contact pad 20, a rounded contact tip being arranged in the first contacting region 114 for contacting the contact pad 20, and the contact tip having an outer radius (R) which corresponds to one to three times the thickness of the wire (see fig. 6), a second contacting region 111 for contacting a second electrically conductive contact pad (page 2, lines 6 and 7 of para [0021]), and a compressing region 112, with at least one wire curvature, arranged between the first contacting region 114 and the second contacting region 111, a straight piece of wire 113 extending from the compressing region 112 and finishing in the contact tip running in the direction of the spring force, wherein the wire 113 is bent in the first contacting region 114, and wherein this wire 113 bend forms the contact tip.

In regard to claims 12, 20, Yin et al. discloses the wire 113 has a rectangular cross section with a thickness and a depth, and in that the spring 11 is bent in a plane perpendicular to the depth.

In regard to claim 15, Yin et al. discloses that the contact arrangement comprises means (the rounded tip of 114) by which the contact tip of the pressure contact spring 11 is prevented from penetrating through the first contact pad 20 when it penetrates into the first contact pad 20.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yin et al.

In regard to claim 14, Yin et al. is silent about the material characteristics of the first contact pad and the spring force.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Yin et al. by constructing the first contact pad of a material having a hardness of from 45 to 70 Hv and the pressure contact spring having a spring force between 4 and 12 N since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious engineering choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 16-19, 21-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In regard to claim 16, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the means

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by which the contact tip of the pressure contact spring is prevented from penetrating through the first contact pad comprise a multilayered first contact pad, a barrier layer which consists of a harder material than the material of a surface layer, the barrier layer being arranged under the surface layer; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to claims 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest a power semiconductor module, comprising at least one power semiconductor chip with at least one electrode with a metallization, and the electrode metallization being the first contact pad of the contact arrangement and a terminal led out from the module being the second contact pad of the contact arrangement.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER